Ending Homelessness in the District Closing DC General: Short-Term Family Housing in Ward 8

The District of Columbia has a plan to end homelessness – and that includes closing DC General, the city's largest family shelter. Experts, community leaders, and current and former residents agree that DC General is not a good place for families. It's too big, too old and geographically removed from the services that families experiencing homelessness need to exit shelter.

In order to close DC General, the Bowser Administration and DC Council are advancing a plan to open up short-term family housing in every single ward. These facilities will be small, safe and dignified – with the services and supports that help families get back on their feet.

Short-Term Family Housing in Ward 8

After a thorough search, the District's Department of General Services has secured a site for short-term family housing in Ward 8 on Sixth Street, south of the intersection at 6th Street and Chesapeake Street, SE. The facility will accommodate up to 50 families at a time.

The Ward 8 short-term family housing facility will be developed on an existing District-owned vacant plot of land. In addition to building a modern new building that will retain the look and feel of the neighborhood, the development will create ample parking for the facility's residents, as well as a new curb cut along 6th Street.

The facility will include private rooms for families, as well as:

- Playground & recreation space
- Computer lab for residents
- Ongoing support services & programming for families
- An entry garden

Following is an architect's rendering of what the site may look like. Exact design specifications are subject to change as development moves forward.



Construction of the site will begin on early 2017, and the facility is expected to be complete by Fall 2018.

Short-Term Family Housing in Ward 8



